ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the interview of January 17, 2007, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 2-6, 9, and 11-22 remain in this application. Claims 1, 7-8, 10, and 20 have been previously canceled.

Claims 1-6, 10-14, and 19 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Ali *et al*. (U.S. U.S. 5,896,411). Claims 7, 9, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ali in view of Minami *et al*. (U.S. 6,587,510); and claims 8 and 16-17 were rejected under Ali in view of Kubo *et al*. (U.S. 6,249,682). For the following reasons, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed at the personal interview of January 17, 2007 and as argued in the amendment of December 28, 2006, Ali fails to teach that an *apparatus* that detects a state change (i.e., detects one or more of: the change in the reception power of the received signal obtained by comparing the previous reception power with the current reception power, the fading pitch of the reception power of the received signal, the transmission power of the distant station, the transmission power of said apparatus, and the change in the transmission power control bit), where the apparatus itself *internally* changes a variable power step amount based on both the power bit setting received from a distant station and the detected state change. Instead, Ali appears to instead teach that a *base station* "can dynamically set the power control step size for each SU" (see col. 3, lines 56-60; see also col. 4, lines 20-24)). Ali does this by sending the updated step change amount to the SU (Id.). Thus, the reference teaches that it is the *base station* that sets the power control step size, not the SU itself, in contrast to the claim language, which requires the *apparatus* to *internally* make the change.

Accordingly, claim 21, as amended, recites:

> a transmission power control step range changer for *internally* changing a variable power step amount of a transmission power control step based on both the transmission power control bit and one or more of: the change in the reception power of the received signal obtained by

comparing the previous reception power with the current reception power, the fading pitch of the reception power of the received signal, the transmission power of the distant station, the transmission power of said apparatus, and the change in the transmission power control bit;

(emphasis added) wherein the apparatus "*internally* increases or decreases a transmission power of a transmitted signal to the distant station by the changed power step amount in response to the transmission power control bit received from the distant station" (emphasis added). Thus, as argued above, the claim clearly recites that it is the *apparatus* that changes the power step amount, based on the *apparatus* detecting (reception or transmission) power change and the *apparatus* extracting the power control bit setting. In contrast, the reference teaches that it is the *base station* that sets the power step size for the *SU* (which is not the base station), and thus the SU receives a *command* to change its step size, and responds by doing so. This process is highlighted by the drawing attached to this amendment (for illustrative purposes, only). However, note that the SU of Ali does not have a "transmission power control step range changer for *internally* changing a variable power step amount" because it merely implements a change amount received from the base station (i.e., the SU changes the transmission power by the step amount determined by the base station, it doesn't determine any *change* in the step amount itself).

At the personal interview, the Examiner was attempting to read the "transmission power control step range changer" on the SU because Ali teaches that the SU changes the transmission power by the amount commanded by the Base Station. However, that function is covered by the portion step of claim 21 that recites "said apparatus internally increases or decreases a transmission power of a transmitted signal to the distant station by the changed power step amount" where the power step amount is determined by the Base station (unlike the claimed invention, where the step amount is determined by the apparatus itself). Again, the attached figure helps to clarify this difference.

Claim 22, as amended, recites limitations similar to those discussed above, and thus, is also patentable over the reference for at least the same reasons. Neither Kubo nor Minami overcome the Ali shortcomings, and thus the remaining claims, which depend on

one of claims 21 and 22, are also patentable over the references for at least the same reasons.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33220.

Respectfully submitted,
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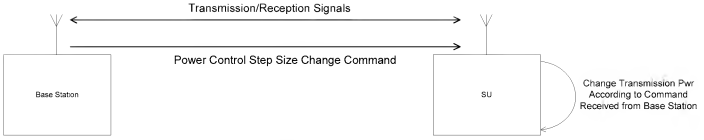
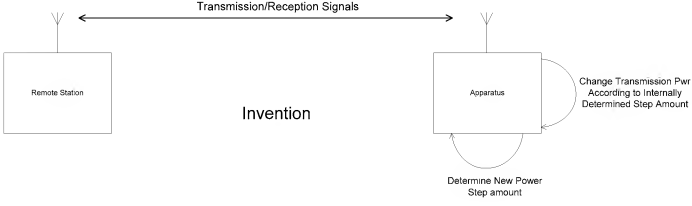



Ali Reference

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